

a first pulley block attached to and depending from the cross beam proximal to the winch, said first block including a first pulley;

a second pulley block attached to and depending from the cross beam distal to the winch, said second block including a second pulley;

a first cable having a first end portion wound around the barrel of the winch, an intermediate portion that extends through the first pulley wherein it engages a first sheave therein and thence extends through the second pulley and terminates in an opposite, second end portion; and

a second cable having a first end portion wound around the barrel of the winch and an intermediate portion that extends through the first pulley wherein it engages a second sheave therein and thence terminates in an opposite, second end portion;

whereby the second end portions of the cables can be secured to the rear legs of the carcass and the carcass can be hoisted by rotation of the handle of the winch, thereby stretching the rear legs apart.

It may be seen that proposed new claim 11 is generic to all of claims 1-4 because claim 1 (and, therefore claims 2-4 that depend from claim 1) is just a special case of the "means to form a rigid frame, said frame including at least two upright members and a cross beam attached to upper ends of said upright members," wherein said means includes (quoting from the relevant portion of claim 1):

two spaced apart bases;
upright members arranged to extend from each base, each upright member having a lower end and an opposite, upper end; (and)
a cross beam adapted to bridge the upper ends of the upright members to form a rigid frame.

Similarly, proposed new claim 11 is generic to all of claims 5-10 because claim 5 (and, therefore claims 6-10 that depend from claim 5)

is also just a special case of the "means to form a rigid frame, said frame including at least two upright members and a cross beam attached to upper ends of said upright members," wherein said means includes (quoting from the relevant portion of claim 5):

first and second spaced-apart bases;
a third base disposed intermediate the first and second bases;
first, second and third upright members attached to and extending upward from the first, second and third bases, respectively, each upright member having a lower end and an opposite upper end; (and)
a cross beam adapted to bridge the upper ends of the upright members, said upright members being pivotally mounted for rotation about said cross beam, to form a frame;

Since it is possible to write a claim generic to both Species I and Species II, these species are not patentably distinct. Accordingly, the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

The applicant urges that the restriction requirement be withdrawn and that the application be amended to include proposed new claim 11. To that end, on a separate sheet, the claims are listed as to their status, and the claims are set forth on separate pages, as amended, without comment. The additional claim requires no new fee as the number of independent claims is increased only to three.

Respectfully submitted this 11th day of January, 2005.
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CERTIFICATION UNDER 35 CFR §1.10

I hereby certify that this transmittal and the documents referred to as attached there are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date, January 11, 2005, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Address" mailing label number ED 348437385 US, addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Amendment, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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(Signature of person mailing paper)

Status of Claims

1. (original) A portable device for hoisting and skinning a four-legged game carcass, comprising:

two spaced-apart bases;

upright members arranged to extend from each base, each upright member having a lower end and an opposite, upper end;

a cross beam adapted to bridge the upper ends of the upright members to form a rigid frame;

a winch mounted on an upright member and equipped with a barrel sufficiently wide to accommodate two cables in side-by-side relation and a handle for rotating said barrel;

a first pulley block attached to and depending from the cross beam proximal to the winch, said first block including a first, dual-sheaved pulley;

a second pulley block attached to and depending from the cross beam distal to the winch, said second block including a second, single-sheaved pulley;

a first cable having a first end portion wound around the barrel of the winch and an intermediate portion that extends through the first pulley wherein it engages a second sheave therein and thence terminates in an opposite, second end portion;

whereby the second end portions of the cables can be secured to the rear legs of the carcass and the carcass can be hoisted by rotation of the handle of the winch, thereby stretching the rear legs apart.

2. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein each upright member includes an upper tube having an elbow fitting at an upper end thereof for attachment to the cross beam, said upper tube being joined to a lower tube that includes a T-fitting at a lower end thereof; and each base member includes a pair of elongated tubes disposed on, and

joined to, opposite ends of said T-fitting such that each upright member is maintained substantially perpendicular to the first and second foot members.

3. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein at least one upright member further includes an extension tube intermediate, and inserted within, the upper and lower tubes, thereby permitting lengthening and shortening of said upright member for adjusting the hoist to sloping or uneven ground.

4. (original) The device of claim 1, 2, or 3, further comprising tension means for attaching the front legs of the carcass to the upright members such that each front leg can be stretched toward and secured to the nearest adjacent upright member.

5. (original) A portable device for hoisting and skinning a four-legged game carcass, comprising:

- first and second spaced-apart bases;

- a third base disposed intermediate the first and second bases;

- first, second and third upright members attached to and extending upward from the first, second and third bases, respectively, each upright member having a lower end and an opposite upper end;

- a cross beam adapted to bridge the upper ends of the upright members, said upright members being pivotally mounted for rotation about said cross beam, to form a frame;

- a winch mounted on an upright member and equipped with a barrel sufficiently wide to accommodate two cables in side-by-side relation and a handle for rotating said barrel;

- a first pulley block attached to and depending from the cross beam proximal to the upper end of the third upright member, said first block including a first pulley;

a second pulley block attached to and depending from the cross beam proximal to an upper end of the first upright member, said second block including a second pulley;

a third pulley block attached to and depending from the cross beam proximal to an upper end of the third upright member, said third block including a third pulley;

a fourth pulley block attached to and depending from the cross beam proximal to an upper end of the second upright member, said fourth block including a fourth pulley;

a first cable having a first end portion wound around the barrel of the winch and an intermediate portion that extends through the first pulley and second pulley and terminates in an opposite, second end portion;

a second cable having a first end portion wound around the barrel of the winch and an intermediate portion that extends through the third and fourth pulleys and thence terminates in an opposite, second end portion;

whereby the first and second upright members and bases can be rotated about the cross beam in a first direction and the third upright and base can be rotated about the cross beam in a second, opposite direction so that the frame assumes a tripod configuration, and the second end portions of the cables can be hoisted by rotation of the handle of the winch, thereby stretching the rear legs apart.

6. (original) The device of claim 5, wherein the winch is mounted on the third upright member.

7. (original) The device of claim 6, wherein the lengths of the first and second upright members each include a telescoping leg portion.

8. (original) The device of claim 7, wherein the first and second upright members each include a telescoping leg portion.

9. (original) The device of claim 8, wherein each of the upright members includes a hollow, cylindrical portion and the cross beam has mating cylindrical bearing surfaces insertable through said hollow, cylindrical portions.

10. (original) The device of claim 8, further comprising tension means for attaching the front legs of the carcass to the upright members such that each front leg can be stretched toward and secured to the nearest adjacent upright member.

11. (new) A portable device for hoisting and skinning a four-legged game carcass, comprising:

- means to form a rigid frame, said frame including at least two upright members and a cross beam attached to upper ends of said upright members;

- a winch mounted on an upright member and equipped with a barrel sufficiently wide to accommodate two cables in side-by-side relation and a handle for rotating said barrel;

- a first pulley block attached to and depending from the cross beam proximal to the winch, said first block including a first pulley;

- a second pulley block attached to and depending from the cross beam distal to the winch, said second block including a second pulley;

- a first cable having a first end portion wound around the barrel of the winch, an intermediate portion that extends through the first pulley wherein it engages a first sheave therein and thence extends through the second pulley and terminates in an opposite, second end portion; and

- a second cable having a first end portion wound around the barrel of the winch and an intermediate portion that extends through the first pulley wherein it engages a second sheave therein and thence terminates in an opposite, second end portion;

whereby the second end portions of the cables can be secured to the rear legs of the carcass and the carcass can be hoisted by rotation of the handle of the winch, thereby stretching the rear legs apart.

A New, Generic Claim

11. A portable device for hoisting and skinning a four-legged game carcass, comprising:

means to form a rigid frame, said frame including at least two upright members and a cross beam attached to upper ends of said upright members;

a winch mounted on an upright member and equipped with a barrel sufficiently wide to accommodate two cables in side-by-side relation and a handle for rotating said barrel;

a first pulley block attached to and depending from the cross beam proximal to the winch, said first block including a first pulley;

a second pulley block attached to and depending from the cross beam distal to the winch, said second block including a second pulley;

a first cable having a first end portion wound around the barrel of the winch, an intermediate portion that extends through the first pulley wherein it engages a first sheave therein and thence extends through the second pulley and terminates in an opposite, second end portion; and

a second cable having a first end portion wound around the barrel of the winch and an intermediate portion that extends through the first pulley wherein it engages a second sheave therein and thence terminates in an opposite, second end portion;

whereby the second end portions of the cables can be secured to the rear legs of the carcass and the carcass can be hoisted by rotation of the handle of the winch, thereby stretching the rear legs apart.